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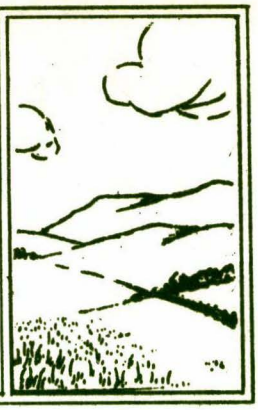

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ROCKY MOUNTAIN STATION

September 12, 1946

PRODUCTION OF LUMBER, LATH, AND SHINGLES IN CALIFORNIA AND NEVADA, 1945[1/]

(Preliminary data, subject to revision)

In cooperation with the Bureau of the Census of the U. S. Department of Commerce, preliminary statistics of lumber production in California and Nevada are presented herewith. These data should be essentially correct, since they are based on preliminary tabulations of complete returns. Final statistics will, however, be issued by the Bureau of the Census in the usual manner.

Lumber production in California and Nevada in 1945 dropped about 8½ percent below the peak year of 1944, reflecting the general letdown in production following V-J Day. Both the pine and redwood regions registered decreases this year, that in the redwood being minor, but the pine accounting for most of the State decrease. The production data in tables 1, 2, and 3 are based upon reports from 347 active mills in the California pine region, and 122 active mills in the redwood region. Included in these totals are 12 active shingle mills, 6 in the pine region, and 6 in the redwood region.

For both States and all species, the production of 2,260,792 M feet b. m. (table 1) is 8.4 percent less than total State-wide production in 1944. The production of pine lumber fell off between 1944 and 1945: ponderosa by about 14 percent, and sugar by 21 percent. Redwood production decreased by about 4 percent. The firs remained fairly steady, showing a leveling off in the increase of recent years. Douglas fir increased about 2 percent, while white fir decreased about 1 percent. Incense cedar rose 12½ percent over 1944, but accounted for only 2 percent of the 1945 cut. The cut of other softwoods decreased. The hardwood cut increased about 117 percent over 1944, but its proportion of the 1945 cut was negligible.

1/ Compiled by George F. Burks, Richard H. May, Alexander Simontacchi, Blanche M. Fadie, and Grace H. Stovall, Special Agents, Census Bureau, and staff members of California Forest and Range Experiment Station.

The output of sawed cross ties decreased about 10 percent from the previous year, and amounted to about 1 percent of total lumber production. Shingle production increased about 41 percent, and lath production rose nearly 65 percent. Lumber stocks at sawmills decreased from 538,724 M feet b.m. on December 31, 1944 to 464,334 M feet b.m. on December 31, 1945, or about 14 percent, Active sawmills in the State rose from 413 in 1944 to 457 in 1945 (excluding shingle mills). It is estimated that there were in addition 114 sawmills which were idle throughout all of 1945, but most of these were small mills of low potential output.

In 1945 ponderosa and sugar pines accounted for about 49 percent of the total cut, Douglas and white firs for about 29 percent, redwood about 20 percent, and other species about 2 percent.

In the pine region lumber production in 1945 was 1,616,289 M feet b.m. (table 2), or 11.2 percent less than the output in 1944. Decreasss were registered by most species in 1945 as compared with 1944 (ponderosa pine, -13.8 percent; sugar pine, -21.1 percent; white fir, -1.3 percent; Douglas fir, -4.0 percent; minor softwoods, -66.7 percent). Incense cedar increased 12.5 percent, while hardwood production increased better than 100-fold or from 3 M to 314 M feet. The cut of ponderosa pine represented about 56½ percent of regional production, white fir 17 percent, sugar pine 12 percent, Douglas fir 11½ percent, incense cedar 3 percent, and other species negligible.

The 27 mills each cutting 15 million feet or more accounted for almost 60 percent of the total cut, while 186 mills cutting less than 1 million feet each accounted for slightly under 3 percent of the total cut. There were 29 more active sawmills in the pine region in 1945 than in 1944, due mainly to an increase in the number of small mills. There were 20 more idle sawmills in 1945 than in 1944. The output of sawed cross ties, nine feet or less in length, was 0.7 percent of total lumber production. Lumber stocks decreased 13.5 percent during the year. Lath production increased about 110 percent from a low figure, while the output of shingles decreased about 15 percent.

In the redwood region lumber production of 644,503 M feet b.m. (table 3) was 0.5 percent less than the 1944 cut. Decreases were registered by the following species: redwood -3.8 percent, sitka spruce -22.8 percent, Port Orford cedar -69.2 percent, and hardwoods -68.5 percent, but these were largely offset by increases in white fir 11.0 percent, Douglas fir 8.7 percent, and pines 41.7 percent. The cut of redwood represented about 69 percent of regional production, Douglas fir about 29 percent, and other species about 2 percent.

The 13 mills each cutting 10 million feet or more accounted for about 74 percent of the total cut, while 59 mills cutting less than 1 million feet each accounted for only about 3 percent of the total cut. There were 116 active sawmills in the region in 1945 as compared to 101 in 1944, while idle mills increased from 20 to 27. The output of sawed cross ties nine feet or less in length, was 2.6 percent of total lumber production. Lumber stocks increased about 3 percent during the year. The output of lath was 12 percent more than in 1944, while shingle production increased 43 percent.

The compilation of lumber cut by counties (table 4) reveals some interesting facts. Seven counties; Humboldt, Siskiyou, Lassen, Mendocino, Plumas, Eldorado, and Shasta, each produced over 100 million board feet in 1945, and although containing only 44 percent of the mills (201 out of 457) accounted for 70 percent of total production. Of these seven counties Humboldt with 49 mills was first with a cut of 418,532 M bd. ft., while Lassen, with only 6 producing mills, was third highest with a cut of 245,617 M bd. ft. Production in the other leading counties ranged from 139,252 M bd. ft. to 268,678 M bd. ft., and the number of mills from 20 to 45.

Humboldt County has led in total production since 1941. In 1945 its production of redwood and Douglas fir was nearly double the combined cut of these species by all other counties in the Redwood Region. In the Pine Region, Lassen County was the largest producer of ponderosa pine and white fir. Plumas County led in the production of sugar pine, Douglas fir, and incense cedar.

The eastern portion of Mendocino County is included with Lake County in the Pine Region, because of its similarity of forest types. The addition of eastern to western Mendocino production would make no change in the relative position of the leading counties, as the amount involved is not great.

Table 1: - Production of lumber, by kind of wood, and of sawed ties, lath and shingles California and Nevada, 1/ - 1944 and 1945
(Preliminary data, subject to revision)

Species	Lumber production (M feet, b. m.) 1944 Quantity	1944 Percent	1945 Quantity	1945 Percent	Change in 1945 from 1944 Percent
Ponderosa pine	1,060,627	43.0	914,880	40.5	- 13.7
Redwood 2/	461,937	18.7	443,806	19.6	- 3.9
Douglas fir	365,787	14.8	372,885	16.5	+ 1.9
White fir 3/	288,289	11.7	285,638	12.7	- 0.9
Sugar pine	246,253	10.0	194,532	8.6	- 21.0
Incense cedar	40,596	1.6	45,655	2.0	+ 12.5
Sitka spruce	3,017	0.1	2,328	0.1	- 22.8
Port Orford cedar	2,156	0.1	665	0.0	- 69.2
Other softwoods	100	0.0	10	0.0	- 90.0
Hardwoods	181	0.0	393	0.0	+117.1
TOTAL	2,468,943	100.0	2,260,792	100.0	- 8.4
Sawed ties MBM 4/	30,664		27,503		- 10.3
Lath (thousands)	3,426		5,651		+ 64.9
Shingles (squares)	63,371		89,460		+ 41.2
Stocks of lumber Dec. 31	538,724		464,334		- 13.8
Number of active sawmills reporting	413		457		+ 10.7

1/ Combined to avoid disclosing output of individual establishments.
2/ Includes Bigtree (Sequoia washingtoniana) in pine region.
3/ Includes a small amount of California red fir (Abies magnifica) which is not produced in sufficient quantities to have established a separate market status.
4/ Represents quantity of sawed cross ties, nine feet or less in length, included under total quantity lumber sawed.

Table 2.- Production of lumber, by kind of wood and class of mill, and of sawed ties, lath, and shingles
Pine region 1/ - California and Nevada 1945
(Preliminary data, subject to revision)

Class of mill	Total mills		Lumber sawed (M feet, b. m.)									Lumber on hand		Sawed 3/ cross ties	Lath 4/	Shingles
	Active	Idle	Ponderosa pine	Sugar pine	White 2/ fir	Douglas fir	Incense cedar	Other Softwoods	Hard-woods	Total Quantity	Total Percent	Dec. 31, 1944	Dec. 31, 1945			
	No.	No.										MBM	MBM	MBM	M pcs.	Squares
8 (50 MM and over)	4	0	283,881	32,748	46,623	15,075	5,233	0	0	383,560	23.7	74,676	74,761	2,007	0	0
7 (25 MM to 50 MM)	9	0	125,888	58,955	91,958	21,877	5,887	0	0	304,565	18.8	92,888	81,033	1,287	1,021	0
6 (15 MM to 25 MM)	14	3	153,664	37,259	42,424	35,323	6,847	39	0	275,556	17.1	130,570	114,388	788	0	0
5 (10 MM to 15 MM)	18	0	109,948	29,460	43,104	37,432	4,514	0	0	224,458	13.9	94,738	61,827	146	809	0
4 (5 MM to 10 MM)	24	0	86,235	18,796	27,799	35,646	7,614	0	0	176,090	10.9	31,433	34,230	6,000	0	0
3 (1 MM to 5 MM)	86	3	122,325	13,909	18,257	35,114	14,305	0	2	203,912	12.6	18,788	16,826	718	10	0
2 (500 M to 1 MM)	38	9	15,991	1,973	3,420	3,863	738	230	305	26,520	1.6	733	287	30	0	0
1 (50 M to 500 M)	111	28	14,800	1,163	1,915	2,361	505	30	6	20,780	1.3	1,137	1,543	0	0	34
0 (Under 50 M)	37	44	640	44	27	112	12	12	1	848	0.1	13	88	0	0	760
Shingle	6	3														1,060
All classes	347	90	913,372	194,307	275,527	186,803	45,655	5/ 311	6/ 314	1,616,289	100.0	444,976	384,983	10,966	1,840	1,854

1/ See footnote 1/ Table 3. Includes production of 1 Class 3 and 1 Class 1 mill in Nevada. Other Nevada mills (3 Class 0) were idle during 1945.
2/ Includes red fir (Abies magnifica).
3/ Represents quantity of sawed cross ties, nine feet or less in length, included under total quantity lumber sawed.
4/ Includes 1,830 M pieces carstrips reported as lath.
5/ Includes 301 MBM Bigtree, 10 MBM Lodgepole pine.
6/ Includes 230 MBM Valley White oak, 50 MBM Oregon ash, 32 MBM California Black oak, 1 MBM alder, 1 MBM aspen and cottonwood.

Table 3.- Production of lumber, by kind of wood and class of mill, and of sawed ties, lath and shingles
California Redwood Region 1/ 1945
(Preliminary data, subject to revision)

Class of mill	Total mills		Lumber sawed (M feet, b. m.)										Lumber on hand		Sawed 2/ gross ties	Lath	Shingles
	Active	Idle	Redwood	Douglas fir	White fir	Sitka spruce	Port Orford cedar	Ponderosa pine	Sugar pine	Hard-woods	Total Quantity	Total Percent	Dec. 31, 1944	Dec. 31, 1945			
	No.	No.											MBM	MBM	MBM	M pcs.	Squares
8 (50 MM and over)	4	0	223,593	50,382	6,210						280,185	43.5	48,761	54,625	11,097	94	20,313
7 (25 MM to 50 MM)	4	0	94,759	21,865	1,655						118,279	18.4	20,137	20,179	2,998	2,752	6,634
5 and 6 3/ (10 MM to 25 MM)	5	0	55,816	20,650	2,216	2,309					80,991	12.6	3,089	2,105	356	965	1,413
4 (5 MM to 10 MM)	11	2	30,135	48,036			665	105	225		79,166	12.3	3,839	1,885	0	0	0
3 (1 MM to 5 MM)	33	2	31,882	35,973				862			68,717	10.6	454	328	1,709	0	20
2 (500 M to 1 MM)	14	4	3,165	5,528				541		2	9,236	1.4	200	54	20	0	4,800
1 (50 M to 500 M)	38	9	4,070	3,558	30	3				77	7,738	1.2	422	169	357	0	5,204
0 (Under 50 M)	7	10	85	90		16					191	-	0	6	0	0	0
Shingle	6	6															49,222
All classes	122	33	443,505	186,082	10,111	2,328	665	1,508	225	4/ 79	644,503	100.0	76,902	79,351	16,537	3,811	87,606

1/ Redwood region includes counties of Del Norte, Humboldt, western Mendocino, Sonoma, western Napa, Marin, Santa Clara, San Mateo, Monterey and Santa Cruz. Remainder of State considered the pine region.
2/ Represents quantity of sawed ties, nine feet or less in length, included under total quantity lumber sawed.
3/ Classes 5 and 6 combined to avoid disclosing cut of individual mills. There are 3 mills in class 6 and 2 in class 5.
4/ Includes 500 feet California laurel, 500 feet maple, 66 MBM alder, and 10 MBM tanbark oak and 2 MBM California black oak.

Table 4. - Production of lumber by counties and species in California, 1945
(Includes Nevada)
(Preliminary data, subject to revision)
M Ft. B. M.

Region and County	No. Active sawmills	Ponderosa pine	Redwood	Douglas fir	White fir	Sugar pine	Cedar	Sitka spruce	Other species	Total
REDWOOD REGION										
Del Norte	5		16,152	6,027			91	16		22,286
Humboldt	49		284,076	122,192	9,346		574	2,312	32	418,532
Mendocino (W)	45	1,508	129,146	53,442	765	225				185,086
Marin-Napa-Sonoma 1/	10		2,518	2,255					47	4,820
San Mateo-Santa Clara-Santa Cruz 1/	7		11,613	2,166						13,779
TOTALS REDWOOD REGION	116	1,508	443,505	186,082	10,111	225	2/665	2,328	3/79	644,503
PINE REGION										
Amador-Sacramento 1/	5	23,675		5,753	11,500	3,177	4,332			48,437
Butte	27	20,551		12,742	41,385	16,561	2,941			94,180
Calaveras	16	54,648		4,045	17,719	14,177	3,401			93,990
Eldorado	34	76,564		16,887	22,370	20,044	8,597			144,462
Fresno	7	7,052		0	5,696	6,568	38			19,354
Inyo-Kern-Mono 1/	3	6,164		1,447	3,975	0	0		10	11,596
Lake-Mendocino (E) 1/	8	7,246		6,770	1,049	1,700	14		305	17,084
Lassen	6	190,517		907	47,341	1,380	5,472			245,617
Madera	8	13,803		100	1,386	3,460	114			18,863
Mariposa	18	7,273		0	302	1,040	0			8,615
Modoc	9	56,594		0	1,048	500	383			58,525
Nevada Co.	17	9,549		1,741	6,508	1,401	417		2	19,618
Placer	22	13,195		7,801	1,002	2,067	148		1	24,214
Plumas	19	59,012		38,446	34,033	38,711	10,748			180,806
Riverside-San Bernardino-San Diego 1/	6	908		0	117	128	64			1,217
Shasta	23	71,890		24,628	23,099	14,808	4,827			139,252
Sierra Co.-Nevada State 1/	6	28,468		6,751	10,104	2,517	5			47,989
Siskiyou	24	176,113		33,207	20,366	37,932	1,060			268,678
Tehama-Glenn 1/	9	10,630		570	2,096	1,614	31			14,941
Trinity	17	6,078		10,485	20	1,295	6			17,884
Tulare	16	9,123	301	50	10,368	2,700	1,012		6	23,560
Tuolumne	20	37,938		30	5,245	15,182	1,060			59,455
Yuba	21	26,381		14,443	8,798	7,345	985			57,952
TOTALS PINE REGION	341	913,372	4/301	186,803	5/275,527	194,307	6/45,655		7/324	1,616,289
GRAND TOTALS	457	914,880	443,806	372,885	285,638	194,532	46,320	2,328	403	2,260,792

1/ Combined to avoid disclosing output of individual establishments.
2/ Port Orford cedar (Chamaecyparis lawsoniana).
3/ Includes 66 M alder, 10 M tanoak, 2 M California black oak, one-half M each California laurel and big-leaf maple.
4/ Bigtree (Sequoia washingtoniana), also known as giant sequoia (Sequoia gigantea).
5/ Includes small amounts of California red fir (Abies magnifica).
6/ Incense cedar (Libocedrus decurrens).
7/ Includes 230 M valley white oak, 32 M California black oak, 50 M Oregon ash, 1 M alder, 1 M aspen and cottonwood, and 10 M lodgepole pine.